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PATENT
09/819,109REMARKS

Claims 1 – 30 are presented for examination. In the Office Action mailed on December 18, 2003, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 3 – 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ding (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,787); Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ding in view of Umemoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,416,829); Claims 11 – 14, 16 – 24, and 26 – 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Romesburg (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,078) in view of Ding. However, the Examiner stated that Claims 5 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections.

However, in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Applicants have amended the claims to incorporate the generic subject matter of Claim 15 and its underlying claims. In other words, Claim 15 specifically addresses the use of blocks comprising 128 samples, of which 64 are new. Hence Claim 15 addresses the feature of performing coherence estimation upon blocks of samples that comprise old samples from previous blocks and new samples. Independent Claims 1, 11, and 21 have been amended to include this feature. The Applicants believe that this feature is not taught by any of the references.

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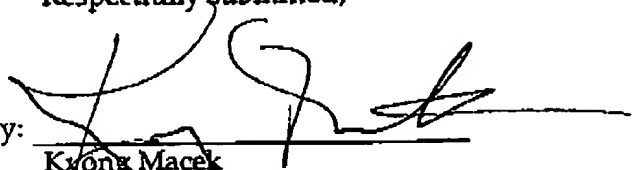
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CONCLUSION

In light of amendments presented above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the instant claims are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this Application is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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